

PATENT

DOCKET NO.: ISIS-2960

previously filed on October 17, 2001. Accordingly, the "Attachment for PTO-948" is no longer relevant in the present application.

In addition, the title of the application has been amended, as requested in the Office Action, to be even more descriptive of the claimed inventions.

Claims 68-71, 73, 76-78, and 81 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EPO 0,514,927 (hereinafter, the "Gilbert reference") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,800,159 (hereinafter, the "Mullis reference"). Although Applicants do not agree with the assertions in the Office Action, solely to advance prosecution of the present application, Applicants have cancelled claims 68-71, 73, 76-78, and 81 without prejudice to their presentation in another application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

The Office Action also asserts that claims 74, 75, 79, 80 and 82 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. These claims have been rewritten as new claims 83-87, respectively. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. An early notice of the same is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (215) 564-8906 if there are any questions regarding Applicants' claimed invention. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT**DOCKET NO.: ISIS-2960****VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE****In the Specification:**

The paragraph containing the title beginning at page 1, line 1 of the specification has been amended as follows:

**[IDENTIFICATION OF GENETIC TARGETS FOR MODULATION
BY] SYSTEM OF COMPONENTS FOR PREPARING OLIGONUCLEOTIDES [AND
GENERATION OF OLIGONUCLEOTIDES FOR GENE MODULATION]**

In the Claims:

Claims 68-71 and 73-82 have been cancelled.

New claims 83-87 have been added.